



**Message from the Office of the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Issue 80 (28 September, 2010)**

Please find below a message from Bill Denny AM, Director, Veterans SA for your information, distribution and possible use in newsletters, and on "Veterans" themed radio programs.

Veterans' Advisory Council (V.A.C.)

The Minister has asked that all members of the veterans' community be re-acquainted with the composition, role and purpose of the V.A.C.

The VAC was created in late 2008 and first met on 12 February, 2009. In total it has met 13 times.

The role of the V.A.C. is to consider matters of concern to veterans and provide feedback to Government. The membership of the V.A.C. is:

Sir Eric Neal AC CVO (Chairman)
Moose Dunlop OAM - (Deputy Chairman) - RAR Association
Jock Statton OAM - RSL
Jennifer Dowling - Partners of Veterans' Association
Major Ian Smith - Currently Serving Reservist
Bill Schmitt AM - POW's Association
Brigadier Laurie Lewis AM (Retd) - Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations
Brigadier Max Lemon AM (Retd) - Legacy
David Kerr - Naval Association of Australia
Squadron Leader David Helman (Retd) - RAAF Association
Brenda Fergusson - War Widows' Guild
Major Robert Ellis (Retd) - Vietnam Veterans' Federation
Paul Coppock - Vietnam Veterans' Association
Greg Blyth - TPI Association

The composition of the V.A.C. was crafted to give a true representative cross section of experience by service, gender, conflict, and former rank. Members of the V.A.C. are appointed for a period of 12 months and may be invited for another term at the Minister's discretion.

The V.A.C. is your conduit with Government. Any issue you have that you would like to refer to the V.A.C. should come through your representative.

You are encouraged to make your representatives work hard! The V.A.C. meets bi-monthly.

If you would like express your interest in serving on the V.A.C. please send a letter of application and a brief current CV to Veterans SA via:

The Hon. Jack Snelling M.P.
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Att: Bill Denny A.M.
G.P.O. Box 1838
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

Discretionary Fund

Minister Snelling has a Discretionary Fund exists to provide grants to the veterans' community.

Some examples of the grants distributed to the veterans' community over the last 12 months include:

• Vietnam Veterans' Day Council	\$2,000
• R.A.A.F. Association (Michael Herbert)	\$1,000
• RSL - National Congress	\$2,034.31
• Vietnamese Invalid Veterans	\$1,000
• RSL - Donation to ANZAC Day	\$25,000
• Vietnam Veterans' Federation - Craft Studio	\$1,950
• Reconciliation SA – Film about Military Service	\$10,000
• Blackwood Community RSL - Mural	\$1,615.00
• Balaklava Veterans Race Day	\$500
• 8 R.A.R. Association National Re-Union	\$2,000
• R.A.A.F. Association - Bungey Memorial	\$2,980
• History SA – Shellshocked Exhibition	\$4,000
• Foundation Daw Park – Research Paper Day	\$2,500
• R.A.C.T. Association – Anniversary	\$300
• Reserve Forces Day Council	\$2,100.90
• State Library – Gallipoli VCs Exhibition	\$1,500
• Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander War Memorial	\$6,000

If you would like to apply for a Discretionary Fund Grant, please contact Paul at Veterans SA on 8226 8552.

Calling all Veterans of Kokoda, Tobruk, Kapyong and Long Tan

Listeners will recall that back in June this year, Premier Mike Rann announced that some of Australia's most famous military battles will be honoured along the almost-complete Northern Expressway.

Veterans SA would like to hear from veterans who served on the Kokoda Track, in Tobruk or who were at or associated with the Battle of Kapyong or the Battle of Long Tan. This will enable Veterans SA to keep you apprised of information and events relating to the naming of the five expressway interchanges.

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Paul at Veterans SA on 8226 8552.